

In the specification:

Please substitute the following paragraphs for the similarly numbered paragraphs in the specification as originally filed or most recently amended.

Paragraph 0009:

[0009] One of these deficient systems used to enable interaction in enterprise site planning is set forth in U.S. Patent No. 5,931,900 (the '900 patent) issued to Notani et al. This system enables interaction between different domains by employing an inter-domain connectivity plane with a first domain engine associated with the first domain and a second domain engine associated with the second domain engine. The first and second domain engines perform domain analysis functions. Additionally, the system employs adapters associated with the first and second native sources. The adapters abstract data and information from the first and second native sources onto the inter-domain connectivity plane. However, the system in the '900 patent requires that the adapters be loaded to interface to particular sources of information. While the adapters may be stored and re-used, they must be accessed and run each time the particular source of information is accessed.

Paragraph 0030:

[0030] While software modules are described, it is to be understood that all or a portion of the exemplary embodiments can also be conveniently implemented by the preparation of application-specific integrated circuits or by interconnecting an appropriate network of component circuits. For simplicity and brevity, an exemplary embodiment utilizing software modules is shown in ~~FIGURE 2~~ FIGURES 2A and 2B.

Paragraph 0031:

[0031] As illustrated in FIGURE 2 2A, the collaboration begins at step 210 when a problem or need is recognized. The problem may be recognized by any number of individuals, groups, or other institutional actors. Often a problem or need is recognized by a company's marketing department conducting market research or by a customer or potential customer that may desire a particular product with specific features or a general product to achieve a particular goal.

Paragraph 0034:

[0034] Once the best design alternative is chosen at step 240, as shown in FIGURE 2B, engineers design the selected product at 245 by utilizing schematic and block diagrams, initial bills-of-materials, pre-prototype simulations, mechanical and computer modeling, and engineering and specialty design reviews. At 247, the engineers test and analyze the completed designs to ensure proper performance and verification in accordance with various business rules as well as to ensure that the finished product meets the requirements object initially set forth. Further, at step 248 the engineers prepare technical documentation including installation and field test manuals, calibration manuals, technical manuals, and user manuals to ensure the delivered product operates properly and within the parameters established by the requirements object and that the finished product may be properly serviced. Once the finished design has been properly tested and documented, production of the finished product occurs at 250. Production scheduling, management of supplier networks, output requirements, packaging and storage, and equipment and facilities must all be managed properly under the production umbrella.

The finished goods are then delivered to the customer at 255 to complete the sale and distribution. Once the finished goods are in the customers' hands, the product must be installed and supported at 260, and warranty costs, service costs, performance data of the finished goods, and customer satisfaction must be monitored. As the product matures, on-going service may be required, and design refinements or upgrades are inevitable over the product life cycle as the product is continually evaluated during its useful life and the need for improvements and updates is realized. Once the product has reached the end of its useful life at 270, it must be disposed, and several options such as trading the product in, re-selling the product, recycling the materials, and scrapping the product are evaluated by the customer and by the organization to determine how each of the alternatives best fits within the business rules of the organization.

Paragraph 0063:

[0063] The collaborating team prepares technical documentation including installation and field test manuals, calibration manuals, technical manuals, and user manuals to ensure the manufactured product operates properly and within the parameters established by the requirements object and that the finished product may be properly serviced. The technical documentation is then stored in the Interactive Electronic Technical Manual (IETM) database 4447. The IETM is stored on a computer server, a CD-ROM, an HTML page, or on other means by which it may be accessed to provide user interactivity. The IETM database 4447 is linked to the parts database 4446 and the drawings database ~~44445~~ 4445 and provides hyperlinks to technical documents, parts lists, and

drawings via the relational characteristics of the databases. The neural intelligence of expert systems is embodied in the IETM as it provides interactive assistance in installation and troubleshooting while eliminating paper copies of technical manuals. The IETM also ensures version control of referenced FIGURES, tables, drawings, procedures and other trouble-shooting instructions as the documents are stamped and coded with accurate version data objects.

Paragraph 0078:

[0078] Once the product has reached the end of its useful life, it must be disposed, and several options such as trading the product in, re-selling the product, recycling the materials, and scrapping the product are evaluated by the customer and by the organization to determine how each of the alternatives best fits within the business rules of the organization. Data objects portraying the useful life of the product are used by the collaborators in assessing the disposal options. Acquisition cost data, depreciation schedules, replacement costs, refurbishment outlays, insurance notifications, costs of the disposal options, and other data regarding disposing of the asset are used by individual contributors in the collaborative environment to best assess disposal options and to again agree upon a consensus disposal strategy. Data objects stored in the databases are delivered to the users to assist in the decision process.

Paragraph 0085:

[0085] While the present invention ~~have~~ has been described in connection with a number of exemplary embodiments and implementations, the present invention is

not so limited but rather covers various modifications and equivalent arrangements, which fall within the purview of the appended claims.